

We claim:

1. A method for displaying a roaming charge rate on a mobile station, the mobile station being associated with a wireless network and a subscriber to wireless services from a wireless service provider associated with the wireless network, the method including the steps:

a) while the mobile station is located in a current geographic area, determining if the mobile station is roaming;

b) determining if a roaming charge will be incurred by the subscriber when using the mobile station in the current geographic area; and

c) communicating a roaming charge rate associated with the roaming charge that would be incurred to the mobile station such that the roaming charge rate is displayed on a display associated with the mobile station while the mobile station is located in the current geographic area.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, between steps a) and b), the method further including:

retrieving at least a portion of an existing service plan between the subscriber and the wireless service provider from a subscriber database.

3. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the retrieved portion includes a roaming charge rate associated with the current geographic area.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the roaming charge rate is a per-minute charge rate.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including:

d) while the mobile station is located in a different geographic area, determining the mobile station is roaming; and

e) repeating steps b) and c) for the different geographic area while the mobile station is powered up.

6. The method as set forth in claim 5, between steps a) and b), the method further including:

retrieving at least a portion of an existing service plan between the subscriber and the wireless service provider from a subscriber database.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the retrieved portion includes a roaming charge rate associated with the current geographic area.

8. The method as set forth in claim 5, step c) further including:

providing a cue to a user associated with the mobile station indicating a new roaming charge rate is displayed on the mobile station.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein the cue is at least one of an audible cue, an indicator cue, and a vibratory cue.

10. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein the cue is provided for a predetermined time period.

11. The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein the roaming charge rate is a per-minute charge rate.

12. A method for displaying a per-minute roaming charge on a mobile station, the mobile station being associated with a wireless network and a subscriber to wireless services from a wireless service provider associated with the wireless network, the method including the steps:

a) while the mobile station is located in a current geographic area, determining the mobile station is roaming;

b) retrieving at least a portion of an existing service plan between the subscriber and the wireless service provider from a subscriber database;

c) determining a per-minute roaming charge will be incurred by the subscriber when using the mobile station in the current geographic area;

d) communicating the per-minute roaming charge to the mobile station;

e) displaying the per-minute roaming charge on a display associated with the mobile station while the mobile station is located in the current geographic area;

f) while the mobile station is located in a different geographic area, determining the mobile station is roaming; and

g) repeating steps b) - e) for the different geographic area while the mobile station is powered up.

13. The method as set forth in claim 12 wherein the retrieved portion includes a roaming charge rate associated with the current geographic area.

14. The method as set forth in claim 13, step e) further including:

providing a cue to a user associated with the mobile station indicating a new roaming charge rate is displayed on the mobile station.

15. The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein the cue is at least one of an audible cue, an indicator cue, and a vibratory cue.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the cue is provided for a predetermined time period.

17. A wireless network, including:

a mobile station associated with a subscriber to wireless services from a wireless service provider associated with the wireless network;

means for determining the mobile station is roaming while the mobile station is located in a current geographic area;

means for displaying a per-minute roaming charge on the mobile station while the mobile station is located in the current geographic area;

a subscriber database for storing an existing service plan between the subscriber and the wireless service provider;

means for retrieving at least a portion of the existing service plan from the subscriber database;

means for determining a per-minute roaming charge will be incurred by the subscriber when using the mobile station in the current geographic area; and

means for communicating the per-minute roaming charge to the mobile station.

18. The wireless network as set forth in claim 17 wherein the retrieved portion includes a roaming charge rate associated with the current geographic area.

19. The wireless network as set forth in claim 17, further including:

means for providing a cue to a user associated with the mobile station indicating a new roaming charge rate is displayed on the mobile station.

20. The wireless network as set forth in claim 19 wherein the cue is at least one of an audible cue, an indicator cue, and a vibratory cue.